

**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
Final Minutes – October 16, 2001**

Members Present

Wayne Blevins	Karen Lee
Fran Decker	Duncan Mathewson
Todd Firm	Martin Moe
Richard Grathwohl	Ken Nedimyer
David Hawtof	Anita Schwessinger
Nancy Klingener	Deborah Shaw
Don Kincaid	

Alternates Present

Greg DeDomenico for Tony Iarocci
Jerome Lorenz
Sheila Mullins
Jody Thomas

Call to Order

Vice Chair Fran Decker called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Introductions

Mr. Causey introduced Kevin Kirsch and Sean Meehan of the FKNMS Seagrass Damage Assessment and Restoration Team, and Bill Goodwin, FKNMS Resource Specialist.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report – Billy Causey

Mr. Causey reported on the progress made throughout July and August by the Damage Assessment Team in conjunction with NOAA staff and FWC staff on removal of illegal artificial lobster habitat.

He described some of the experiences he shared starting on September 11th on a ten-day saturation mission in the Aquarius underwater laboratory off Conch Reef, with two other Sanctuary members, James Lindholm, scientific co-ordinator from Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and Cathy Sakas, the education co-ordinator for the Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary and Laddie Akins from REEF, the environmental education foundation. One of those experiences was a visit paid to the group by Bob Ballard, Deputy Secretary for DEP, arranged by Steve Miller, the Director of the National Undersea Research Center.

Mr. Causey mentioned a panel presentation, organized by the Sanctuary Foundation, that he made, on global warming, to both sides of the Congress in Washington D.C. on September 25th at the Congressional Ocean's Day Conference.

He noted that Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr. has been named as the new Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

He reported that the Damage Assessment Team has just finished replacing thirty underwater thermographs throughout the Sanctuary.

Mr. Causey characterized progress on Sanctuary facilities at the Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center in Key West as ongoing. He referred to a grant proposal that June Cradick worked on with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for displays and educational materials in the inter-agency visitor center, using fine monies from the Royal Caribbean cruise line.

He mentioned the successful cocktail party and fundraiser held by The Sanctuary Friends of the Florida Keys in Key West.

Mr. Causey announced a comprehensive seminar for the Sanctuary Advisory Council on marine mammal issues will be held in January.

He thanked the Sanctuary Advisory Council members for their work on the five year review of the FKNMS Management Plan.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Anna Marie Hartman

Ms. Hartman reported on the status of the No-Discharge Committee.

She informed the Council that an exclusion zone for the siting of fiber-optic cables has been established from northern Dade County through the Florida Keys.

She described some of the items for inclusion in the annual report for the Coral Reef Task Force.

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission – John Hunt

Mr. Hunt reminded the Council of the Commission meeting to be held at the Westin, Key Largo between October 31st and November 2nd. He answered questions on sponges, lobster tagging, lobster fishing and encouraged members to attend the meeting.

Sanctuary Enforcement Report – Billy Causey for Lt. Bob Currul

Mr. Causey reported that the Governor and Cabinet had still not approved the new officer positions.

He indicated that the arrival in Key West of the second 82 foot enforcement vessel was imminent.

Mr. Grathwohl moved to have a statement made by the Council to Representatives Sorensen and Jones asking for their help on moving forward on the issue of approving officers for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Introduction

Mr. Causey established a quorum by announcing the approval by the Secretary of Commerce of Nancy Klingener as the new Conservation member. He announced the approval of Bryant Diersing as the new alternate to the Education member.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Nedimyer.

Mr. Grathwohl, after some discussion, re-stated his motion. He moved that a letter be sent from the Sanctuary Advisory Council to the Governor and to Senator Daryl Jones and Representative Ken Sorensen asking the reason for the hold-up in employing enforcement personnel who were designated to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The motion was seconded.

Mr. Hawtof suggested that Col. Walker also receive a copy of the letter.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the August 21, 2001 meeting were approved as presented.

Upon invitation from Vice Chair Decker, Mr. Causey gave an overview of the process for reviewing the action plans.

Submerged Cultural Resources Action Plan Review – Lt. Dave Score

Introduction

Mr. Causey recognized Dave Whall as being an outstanding volunteer within the program. He introduced Jody Thomas of The Nature Conservancy as the new alternate for the Conservation member of the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Education and Outreach Action Plan Review – Mary Tagliareni

Introduction

Mr. Causey recognized Ben Richards for his recent work mapping for the new Marine Protected Area in Northwestern Hawaii.

Research and Monitoring Action Plan Review – Dr. Brian Keller

Damage and Restoration Action Plan Review – Bill Goodwin

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

December 11, 2001

Submitted by,

Fiona Wilmot

Approved: December 11, 2001